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General Assembly
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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Environment and sustainable development

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 12 November 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward to you the texts of the Joint Communiqué and the Dushanbe Declaration, signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan during the summit of the States members of the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation, held in Dushanbe on 5 and 6 October 2002 (see annexes I and II).

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We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21 (d), 37, 86 (b), 87, 100, 101 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) H.E. Mrs. Madina B. **Jarbussynova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) H.E. Mr. Kamil M. **Baialinov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) H.E. Mr. Rashid K. **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) H. E. Mr. Alisher V. **Vohidov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

2. The Heads of State, recognizing the presence of a significant unused potential to expand mutually advantageous trade and economic relations, instruct their Governments to take further practical steps to eliminate obstacles and barriers to the deepening of economic cooperation, to give a new dynamic of development to such cooperation, to increase the volume of mutual trade and mutual investments and to establish and expand direct contacts between business circles and management in the States of the region.

The Heads of State also attach great significance to the development of border trade between the States members of CAC and instruct their Governments to take measures to improve the legal bases for its further expansion and strengthening.

The Heads of State noted the need to determine in the near future priority projects for practical concerted action in the transport and energy sectors, including in such areas as the construction and reconstruction of transport communications and power facilities, their joint exploitation and the extraction and transportation of energy resources, and other areas of mutual interest.

The Heads of State, emphasizing the great importance for the economic development of the States of the region of the stable functioning and rational exploitation of transport communications, noted the need for strict compliance with earlier agreements relating to international automobile and rail transportation and the importance of conducting an agreed tariff and customs policy in respect of all forms of transportation.

3. The Heads of State, with a view to a comprehensive discussion of current and long-term issues of economic development in Central Asia, reached agreement on the holding of a business forum of business circles and entrepreneurs in Tashkent in November 2002.

4. The Heads of State consider it expedient to hold a meeting of parliamentarians of the member countries of CAC in Tashkent before the end of the current year. The agenda and date of the interparliamentary meeting will be agreed upon in the prescribed manner.

5. The Heads of State emphasize the need for increased cooperation in the area of the protection and enhancement of the environment, the prevention of transboundary pollution, and the prevention of natural and technogenic disasters in the States of the region and the elimination of their consequences.

The Heads of State, with a view to the further improvement of the mechanism of the inter-State use of transboundary water resources, again reaffirm the need for coordinated and concerted action in that area on the basis of the generally recognized principles and rules of international law, taking into account the interests of all the peoples of the region.

To this end, they have instructed their Governments to work out, at the expert level, a draft agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the creation of an international water and energy consortium, prepared by Kazakhstan.

The Heads of State, having considered questions relating to joint efforts to resolve the problems of the Aral Sea area, state that concerted action within the

framework of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea (IFAS) is in the fundamental and vital interests of the peoples of the States members of CAC.

6. The Heads of State intend to continue to support efforts to develop concerted action in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, which would promote the expansion and deepening of friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the States and between the peoples of the region.

The Heads of State note the importance of further mutual cultural exchanges and exchanges of information, including the rapid settlement of questions relating to the organization of broadcasts of their countries' television and radio programmes to the territory of States of the region, and in this connection they emphasize the need to respect the demands of national legislation, national traditions, philosophy and lifestyle, and the social and humanitarian values of the peoples of the region.

7. The Heads of State emphasized the importance of the speedy completion, on the basis of the rules and principles of international law, of the process of the legal establishment of the State border lines between their States as a basic element of the sovereignty and independence of States.

The Heads of State will make active efforts to ensure that they have established the boundaries of peace and friendship uniting the peoples of the region.

8. The Heads of State reiterate their full support for the efforts of the world community to counter international terrorism and extremism, illegal trafficking in drugs and other manifestations of transnational organized crime.

9. The Heads of State believe that security and stability, economic prosperity and the further democratic development of the States of the region are closely linked to the eradication of terrorist activities in Afghanistan and the elimination of the conditions conducive to their renewal.

The Parties express support for the Government of Afghanistan headed by H. Karzai and for the efforts of the international counter-terrorist coalition and the United Nations to achieve a comprehensive Afghan settlement, and they express their readiness to offer their active cooperation in bringing that country into the international processes in the region.

10. The Heads of State instruct the Governments of their countries to take further measures to coordinate the activities of the countries of the Central Asian region in connection with the implementation of projects designed to bring about the renewal of the Afghan economy within the framework of the programme envisaged at the Tokyo Conference on post-war reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan.

The Governments of the member countries of CAC are requested to study these questions on the working level and to take mutually acceptable decisions.

11. The Heads of State reaffirm their commitment to the instruments adopted earlier within CAC and instruct the national coordinators to complete an inventory of the legal and treaty basis of the Central Asian Economic Community.

12. The Heads of State express their confidence that their efforts towards the creation of a more efficient and effective mechanism of mutual cooperation will also receive the full support of their peoples.

(*Signed*) N. **Nazarbaev**
President of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. **Akayev**
President of Kyrgyzstan

(*Signed*) E. **Rakhmonov**
President of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) I. **Karimov**
President of Uzbekistan

Dushanbe, 5 October 2002

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Dushanbe Declaration

The States of Central Asia, together with international organizations, are paying serious attention to the environmental and socio-economic crisis in the Aral Sea basin and are making determined efforts to overcome it and to improve the situation in the region.

The Presidents of the States of Central Asia — the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Expressing their concern at the exacerbation of the environmental crisis in the Aral Sea basin,

Desiring to carry out the decisions adopted concerning the joint implementation of the Concrete Action Programme for the Problems of the Aral Sea and to work out a concept for the stable development of the countries of the Aral Sea basin,

Confirming the decisions adopted earlier concerning the overall utilization and protection of the water resources of the Aral Sea basin, taking into account the interests of all the countries of the region and in compliance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect,

Noting that regional institutionalized organs have significant potential to initiate the settlement of inter-State problems relating to the protection and rational use of natural resources and, ultimately, to ease the Aral Sea crisis,

Taking into account resolution 55/196 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, and noting that that year coincides with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea,

Expressing their steadfast desire, jointly and by concerted action, to overcome the consequences of the crisis and ensure environmental stability in the region,

Considering that in recent years natural disasters have become more frequent,

Acting in accordance with their responsibility to future generations and believing that, in order to achieve a radical change in the situation, linked to this planetary crisis, additional measures are required directed towards the improvement of the environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin and the solution of the problems accompanying the crisis,

Declare that we shall:

Determine the main direction to be taken in solving the problems connected with the Aral Sea crisis and improving the social and environmental situation in the region in order to establish normal living conditions for the population living in the Aral Sea basin;

Consider immediate measures to improve the social and environmental conditions and provide the population of the Aral Sea basin with clean drinking water;

Hold an international forum on clean water problems and the rational use of water resources in Dushanbe in September 2003 and have the countries of the region participate directly in its organization;

Strengthen the role of the Executive Committee of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea in coordinating the activities of donors and attracting resources for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Aral Sea basin and of the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination in the management and regulation of the use of transboundary waters;

Consider the critical comments of the United Nations Development Programme concerning the activities of the Executive Committee of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea to be justified and to deserve to be taken into careful consideration by the Executive Committee in its practical work;

Examine the question of the establishment of the permanent location of the Executive Committee of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea in one of the cities of the founding States of the Fund and take an agreed decision at the next meeting of the Heads of State of the founding members of the Fund;

Organize the implementation of a set of measures to mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the International Fund to Save the Aral Sea with the participation of all the countries of the region and international organizations and with the demonstration of plans, programmes and scientific and technological advances for the rational use of natural resources and the improvement of the social standard of living of the population of the countries of the region;

Speed up the elaboration of practical measures to increase the use of waters from drainage reservoirs;

Offer full support to countries stricken by natural disasters;

Create the necessary conditions for international organizations and institutes in their activities to attract resources for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Aral Sea basin;

Note the need to create a special United Nations commission to coordinate the activities of international organizations and donor countries in resolving the problems of the Aral Sea basin;

Improve the monitoring system and flow of information between countries on the condition of water resources and other natural resources with a view to the timely and correct adoption of decisions governing their rational use;

Use the results obtained in the process of drafting projects for the management of water and energy resources with a view to rational and mutually advantageous cooperation.

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
(*Signed*) N. **Nazarbaev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
(*Signed*) A. **Akayev**

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
(*Signed*) E. **Rakhmonov**

For Turkmenistan:

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
(*Signed*) I. **Karimov**

Dushanbe, 6 October 2002